Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03

EB-11 DRC-01 /051 W

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R 301158Z SEP 74 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO COMIDEASTFOR BAHRAIN INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1075 COMSC WASHDC CNO WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CFED. KU

SUBJECT: HONORS INCIDENT REPORT - KUWAIT

REF: A. MV FALCON LADY 241243Z SEP 74 B. COMSCMED NAPLES 251304Z SEP 74

C. COMIDEASTFOR 281512Z SEP 74 (NOTAL)

- 1. IN RESPONSE REFTEL (C) FOLLOWING INFO RE SUBJECT INCIDENT PROVIDED. ON 24 SEPTEMBER 1974, MR. PETER D'SOUSA, KUWAIT OIL TANKER COMPANY (KOTC) TELEPHONED EMBASSY TO ADVISE THERE WAS SOME DIFFICULTY WITH U.S. NAVY TANKER "FALCON LADY" AT SHUAIBA PORT. MR. D'SOUSA NOTED KOTC IS AGENT FOR ALL SHIPS BUNKERING THAT PORT. KUWAIT PORT AUTHORITY WAS INSISTING THAT TANKER FLY KUWAITI FLAG AS DO QUOTE ALL UNQUOTE OTHER SHIPS WHILE IN KUWAITI PORT AREAS. CAPTAIN REFUSED AND PORT AUTHORITY WAS THREATENING TO TAKE ACTION, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED. MR. D'SOUSA WONDERED IF EMBASSY COULD ORDER CAPTAIN TO FLY KUWAITI FLAG IN ORDER AVOID ANY POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SHIP AND PORT AUTHORITY.
- 2. AFTER DISCUSSING ABOVE INFO WITH DCM AND USLOK, CONSULAR OFFICER TOLD D'SOUSA THAT, TO BEST OF EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, SHIP WAS NOT MAN O'WAR, WHICH WOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM FLYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANY OTHER FLAG, BUT WAS MERCHANT SHIP UNDER CONTRACT WITH U.S.

NAVY. EMBASSY DID NOT KNOW PRECISE RULES GOVERNING SUCH MERCHANT SHIPS UNDER U.S. NAVY CONTRACT, BUT WONDERED IF SHIP COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPLETE ITS BUNKERING AND DEPART. MR. D'SOUSA ADVISED PROBLEM HAD BEEN TEMPORARILY SOLVED: CAPTAIN HAD GIVEN LETTER, EXPLAINING REASONS WHY HE NOT PERMITTED TO FLY ANY OTHER FLAG TO KUWAIT PORT AUTHORITY AND TO AGENT, KOTC. PORT AUTHORITY HAD AGREED TO CLEAR TANKER THIS TIME, ALLOWING IT NOT TO FLY KUWAITI FLAG, BUT ISSUED WARNING THAT DURING ANY FUTURE VISIT SHIP WOULD BE REQUIRED FLY KUWAITI FLAG, OR NOT BE PERMITTED TO VISIT.

- 3. AFTER RECEIPT OF REFTELS, CONSULAR OFFICER TALKED AGAIN WITH MR. D'SOUSA. HE PROMISED PROVIDE RELEVANT DETAILS CONCERNING OPERATING REGULATIONS OF U.S. NAVY SHIPS, IN FORM OF LETTER TO KOTC AND KUWAIT PORT AUTHORITY.
- 4. FOR SECSTATE: LANGUAGE FOR ABOVE LETTER WILL BE DRAWN FROM REFTEL (B). EMBASSY DOES NOT HOLD CA-3939, 29 OCTOBER 1958. PLEASE PROVIDE. STOLTZFUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 30 SEP 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KLIWAIT04204

Document Number: 1974KUWAIT04204 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740275-0540

From: KUWAIT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974093/aaaaacha.tel

Line Count: 81

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. MV FALCON LADY 241243Z SEP 74 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: CollinP0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 24 MAY 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: HONORS INCIDENT REPORT - KUWAIT

TAGS: CFED, KU To: COMIDEASTFOR

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005